

wonderful people back home. He understood the legislative process. But most of all I found him, as so many, many did, as a friend, a true friend.

What he leaves today is more for those who follow us in this Chamber and who lead and will lead America in the days and years ahead; to the pages, which he once was, to the young people who he spent so much time with in his office and back home in the Eighth District of Missouri, for he was truly a role model.

I hope and pray that his memory will live in those young folks who will stand in his shoes, in our shoes in the years ahead. We miss him, but we revere his memory. We always shall.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our former colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Bill Emerson, who passed away a year ago after a long and valiant battle.

Bill was known for his bipartisan ship, his ability to bring people together to work on hunger. Bill and I and the gentleman from Ohio, TONY HALL, and a few others were in a small covenant group that met every Tuesday in the Capitol chapel to talk with each other, to pray with each other, and to support each other.

I was privileged to know Bill. He was a person of character, a person of courage, a person of integrity. Bill loved history more than anyone else that I knew, and Bill loved to talk about Lincoln; Bill loved to talk about Winston Churchill.

I can see where Bill is; in heaven where Lincoln and Churchill and Bill are talking together, and Lincoln is talking about how it was in the 1850's and 1860's, Churchill is talking about how it was in World War I and World War II, and Bill Emerson is talking about how it really was in the 1970's the 1980's and the 1990's.

Bill made every effort to live by the principles of Jesus, and he set an example for this entire Congress to live by. Every time I see the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. KANJORSKI, and the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, who he rode with, and many others, I think of Bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. HALL of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to join with the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, and other distinguished Members to pay tribute to Bill Emerson.

So many of us like to say that this is my best friend, the great gentleman from Missouri, et cetera, et cetera, but I can tell my colleagues that Bill Emerson was a good friend.

Like the gentleman from Virginia, FRANK WOLF, said, Bill and I traveled together. We ate dinner together often. We, the gentleman from Virginia and I, met every Tuesday at 4 o'clock in the chapel and prayed together. We talked about our families. Our wives knew each other. Our children knew one another.

Bill was a great man. He taught us a lot about what it was like to be a humanitarian. He taught me a lot about agriculture and about being a great example.

My son and he had a special thing, too, because they both had cancer at the same time and they died within a month of each other. Bill would always send my son cheesecake every week from this famous place in his hometown of Girardeau, I believe, and my son always looked forward to it.

So I loved this guy and I really miss him. He was a great man, and the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, is carrying on in the great footsteps of her husband.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with JO ANN EMERSON and other distinguished Members to remember and pay tribute to Bill Emerson.

Occasionally, during the course of our work here in Congress, the word, "friends," is used lightly. But, I can say that Bill Emerson was truly my good friend. Bill and I knew each other for many years. We worked together, traveled together, and spend time together outside of work as well. Our families knew each other and became close.

I know that Bill was also a friend to many other Members of this body. He cultivated relationships with both Republicans and Democrats, judging his colleagues not by their party affiliation, but rather by their integrity, dedication, and willingness to serve. His own integrity and dedication were unmatched. Even after he was diagnosed with cancer, he continued to work and serve—not to score points or garner sympathy but because that was simply the kind of man he was.

Bill was also a true friend to the needy. He worked endlessly to ease the pain of families and children suffering from poverty. I was honored to serve with him as cochair of the Congressional Hunger Center and work with him to educate the Congress and the Nation about hunger.

Bill was a good man with a truly humanitarian heart. He taught me a lot about serving others, about being a good legislator, and about the true meaning of friendship. I miss him.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BILL EMERSON

(Mr. KANJORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, Bill Emerson was a colleague to all the Members that are here on the floor. To

me, he was my oldest and dearest personal friend.

As all my colleagues have learned, as we go through life, particularly in politics, friends and associates come and go, but our real friends are from our childhood. Bill and I were fortunate enough to meet at the tender age of 15, and I do not think there was ever a year that went by in our lives that we did not have an opportunity to get together, visit with each other or talk with each other. I went through many of his trying times and many of his joys in his lifetime.

Bill Emerson represented something that I want to speak to, because I think it is germane. Maybe we should think about forming the Emerson Society. Because Bill, whenever I look in the back of the Chamber, I see a little smoke and I know that you are still standing at the rail.

He was the type of guy, although he was a Republican and I a Democrat, with whom I could argue and disagree on philosophy and on ideology. But on humanity we agreed.

He was a man that understood the traditions of this great body and of opportunity. He and I served here as young pages and then came back to this great House as Members.

He suffered great pain as he saw the stress of conflict that grew in the 1980's in this House. And toward the end of his life, I think that was the most disappointing part that Bill experienced—that Members could lose civility, comity, and respect for each other above and beyond the disagreement that they had; that it had started to go to personalities.

If Bill were here today, he would say, wait a minute, life is very short; we are here in a very honored and sacred House that has great traditions. From a small Nation in its formation in 1789 until 1995, we have become the model, the ideal of the world, and the hope for humanity. He would ask why can we not walk across the aisle and get to know each other as human beings, identify what we have in common, and find that we have much more in common than we have in disagreement. He would also say that when we disagree, they should be honorable disagreements. Because Bill reflected that most of all, as the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON, has said.

I remember Bill talking about his most honored day when he thought about leaving the House, because he thought the Republican Party would be the perpetual minority. And I am probably a little bit to blame, because I said it was my prediction that his opportunity in the Sun was just around the corner. And he stayed that extra term or two and finally made it.

The most important moment of Bill's life, I think, was on the first day of the 104th Congress, where after 14 years of